

## Oppose JRD Against Vital Bahrain Security Sale



Tavlarides, Mark  
To ● Tavlarides, Mark

Reply Reply All Forward ...

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Good morning,

BGR Group represents the Kingdom of Bahrain. As you may be aware, a resolution of disapproval of a proposed sale to the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain of certain defense articles and services may be brought for a vote this week. We ask you to vote against this resolution and signal your strong support of a vital U.S. partner in the Middle East.

As you may know, Bahrain, a Major Non-NATO ally, has been essential to advancing U.S. national security and strategic interests in the Middle East region for decades. Bahrain was an essential partner in the U.S.'s mission in Afghanistan, including facilitating the evacuation of thousands from the Kabul airport through Manama. Bahrain is also on the front lines against Iranian malfeasance – graciously hosting the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet, our premier force projection capability in the region, and recently through novel partnerships to address the proliferation of drone technology to Iranian proxies in the region. Both the State Department and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has supported this transaction on these grounds.

Bahrain is one of the initial signatories of the Abraham Accords, and has fully embraced the spirit of this agreement with Israel – opening Embassies, dispatching and receiving Ambassadors, operating commercial flights, and more recently, and even more historically, signing a memorandum of understanding with Israel on security cooperation. It is in part through Bahrain's leadership that enabled the U.S. to move Israel into CENTCOM's jurisdiction, ensuring a greater ease of coordination and cooperation as the region confronts malign influence from Russia and Iran. It is due to this increased focus on interoperability and cooperation that this security and defense article sale becomes all the more important, as these articles will increase the ability for Bahrain to deploy alongside the U.S., Israel, and other partner nations to address security threats in the region – enabling the creation of a more stable, peaceful, and predictable Middle East.

**We again ask that your boss votes against S.J.Res.44 - *A joint resolution relating to the disapproval of the proposed sale to the Government of Bahrain of certain defense articles and services*, and instead stands with a vital national security partner.**

Attached to this email is a one-pager explaining in detail the value of this transaction, including its benefits for U.S. national security. Please let me know if you have any questions or wish to engage further with the Embassy on Bahrain's efforts to increase cooperation and coordination across the region.

All my best,  
Mark

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*Note: BGR Government Affairs, LLC has filed registration statements under the Foreign Agents Registration Act with regard to its representation and dissemination of information on behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain. Additional information is on file with the Foreign Agents Registration Unit of the Department of Justice in Washington, DC.*



# WHY SUPPORT ARMS SALES TO BAHRAIN?

The Kingdom of Bahrain is a committed Major Non-NATO ally of the United States. Bahrain hosts the U.S. Navy Fifth Fleet since 1995, and is a proven counterterrorism and security partner of the United States.

## According to the U.S. Government:

This proposed sale of M270 Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS) Upgrade and related equipment, for an estimated cost of \$175.98 million, will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a Major Non-NATO Ally that is an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will improve Bahrain's capability to meet current and future threats by enhancing Bahrain's ability to defend itself against regional malign actors and improve interoperability with systems operated by U.S. forces and other Gulf countries. Bahrain's continued investment in its defensive capabilities is crucial to protecting its borders, energy infrastructure, and its residents, including over 15,000 U.S. citizens and Naval personnel living and working in the country.

## Consequences of Failed Arms Sales:

- Prohibiting U.S. arms sales to Bahrain would compromise national security cooperation with the United States at a time of rising tensions in the Gulf region – specifically by the Iranian regime.
- The preservation of vital U.S. interests in the Middle East and throughout the world requires Bahrain to be sufficiently armed to immediately aid the U.S. military when the need arises.
- Bahrain requires arms to protect the thousands of U.S. military and civilian personnel and their families living in the Kingdom.

## U.S.-Bahrain Relations:

- In addition to hosting the U.S. Navy Fifth Fleet, Bahrain hosts the Combined Maritime Forces, a U.S.-led multinational maritime partnership of 34 member nations to counter illicit non-state actors on the high seas and promoting security, stability, and prosperity.
- Bahrain plays a key role in supporting the U.S. in disrupting the Iranian regime destructive behavior in the Middle East, the United States and throughout the world.
- Bahrain was the first Arab state to lead a Coalition Task Force patrolling the Gulf.

## Abraham Accords

- The ever-growing relationship between Bahrain and Israel is one of mutual respect and collaboration brought about from the Abraham Accords.
- Earlier this year, the Israeli prime minister visited Manama – the highest-ranking Israeli official to ever visit the country.
- Bahrain and Israel signed an MoU on Defense that laid the groundwork for an Israeli Naval officer to be stationed in the country – a first for any Arab country – and a significant step in enhancing the national security interests of Bahrain, the U.S., and Israel.

*“Over the decades, we have worked side-by-side as you invested in the capabilities to defend yourselves. We’ve supported you along the way, and we’re going to keep doing so.”*

U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III

International Institute for Strategic Studies, Manama Dialogue, November 2021